

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 22, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 22, 2004. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Summary of Examiner Interview

The following is a summary of the Substance of An interview conducted on March 31, 2004 with the Examiner and Applicant's representative (Randol Read).

Possible distinctions between the present application, as claimed, and U.S. Patent 5,893,120 (*Nemes*), as well as proposed claim amendments were discussed.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 102

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nemes*, U.S. Patent 5,893,120. Regarding claims 1, 11, and 16, the Examiner states that *Nemes* discloses a method and apparatus including the claimed limitations. The Examiner states that *Nemes* discloses the claimed active window table, referring to a hash table and linked list chains described in *Nemes*. However, Applicant submits that the claimed active window table and hash table, even in combination with the linked list chains are not the same as the claimed active window table.

The active window table claimed in the present application contains a list of media blocks, information regarding expiration of data blocks stored in the media blocks, and an indication of a reference media block that is the oldest media block in the list. As claimed, the information contained in the active window table may be used to identify media blocks that store only data blocks that have become expired. In contrast, as defined in *Nemes*, a hash table is "a large one-dimensional array of record locations" (col. 1, lines 40-41), and neither the hash table nor the linked list chains contain information regarding expiration of data blocks stored in media blocks. Rather, information regarding the expiration of data blocks is stored in the data blocks themselves. As a result, to determine if a data block has expired, the contents of the actual data block (record) has to be examined, as described in col. 6, lines 5-11:

If the end of the list has not been reached as determined by decision box 33, decision box 38 is entered to determine if the record pointed to has expired. This is determined by comparing some portion of the contents of the record to some external condition. A timestamp in the record, for example, could be compared with the current time-of-day value maintained by all computers.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claimed active window table, and operations using information contained in the same, are not disclosed in *Nemes*.

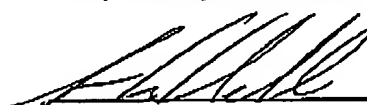
Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 11, and 16 are patentable over *Nemes* and request removal of this rejection with respect to these claims. Claims 2-10, 12-15, and 17-25, each depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 11, or 16 and, as such, contain the same limitations thereof. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims are also patentable over *Nemes* and request removal of this rejection with respect to these claims, as well.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Respectfully submitted,



Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)